

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed June 24, 2005 in connection with the above-identified patent application. Claim 58 has been placed into independent form. Claim 57 has been canceled.

The Office Action

The applicant gratefully acknowledges that claims 1-56 are deemed allowable over the prior art of record. The Examiner gave the following reasons for allowance: "None of the prior art of record teaches or suggests an electric arc welding torch with the features set forth in independent claim 1, especially the limitations associated with the first and second dielectric sleeves and the terminal to connect a high frequency power source in the manner claimed to create a dielectric barrier discharge plasma. None of the prior art of record teaches or suggests the electric arc welding torch with the features set forth in independent claim 24, especially the limitations directed to the dielectric sleeve that creates a dielectric barrier discharge. The dependent claims are allowable at least because they depend from allowable claims 1 and 24."

Claims 57, 60, 61, and 64 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by either one of Essers et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,174,477) or Willems (U.S. Patent No. 4,234,779). The patents to either one of Essers or Willems were deemed to disclose a method of electric arc welding with the steps claimed. In regard to Essers et al., Figure 1 was referred to with regard to welding electrode "B"; arc "C"; a surrounding plasma at "D". In regard to Willems, Figure 1 was referred to with respect to and the discussion thereof and note: electrode 11; arc "M"; surrounding plasma "P".

Claims 58, 59, 62, and 63 were objected to for depending from rejected claims, but will be given favorable consideration if recast in independent form to include all of the limitations of the parent claims. The Examiner stated that none of the prior art of record teaches or suggests the step of creating a plasma by a dielectric barrier discharge in a method of arc welding as set forth in claim 58. The other claims would also be given favorable consideration at least because they depend from claim 58. Accordingly, claim 58 has been placed into independent form. Claims 59-63 depend from claim 58 and are all in condition for allowance. Claim 57 has been canceled.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and comments, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Allowance of all pending claims and early notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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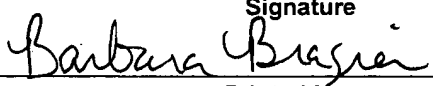
9/21/05
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8, I certify that this Amendment is being

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